

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3a. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3a, 3b and 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3a, 3b and 4. In Figure 3a and 3b, reference numbers have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner Mai is thanked for his thorough examination of the subject Patent Application. The Claims have been have been carefully reviewed, several Claims have been amended in response to the Examiner's kind comments, and all Claims are now considered to be in condition for Allowance.

In the specification, the description of FIG. 3a and 3b were amended to correct the description of the figures, and the paragraphs located on page 12 starting at line 10 and page 12 starting on line 21 have been amended to clarify the description of FIG. 3a and 3b. Reference numbers were added to coincide with the added reference numbers in the amended FIG. 3a and 3b to further clarify the claimed invention.

In amended FIG. 3a and 3b reference numbers were added to identify portions of the channel of the memory cells in order to clarify the description of the matrix of flash memory cells and to address the objection of the Examiner to the drawings.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.B. 112 as failing to set forth the subject matter which the applicant(s) regard as their invention, is requested, in light of the following.

Claim 13 was amended to clarify the confusion the Examiner had with this claim. The bit lines BL and the source lines SL clearly connect to different portions of the channel of a cell through diffusions (not mentioned in the description of either FIG. 3a or 3b, but schematically shown. Claim 13 was amended to clarify the channel portions.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.B. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention, is requested, in light of the following.

Claim 13 was amended to correct an assumed implication that the claimed invention contained a mix of apparatus and method claim elements.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.B. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,146), is requested, in light of the following.

In Kuroda et al. the data lines "D" running vertically between cells are used both as bit lines and source lines depending upon what operation is being applied to which column of cells. Switches are used to set the "D" lines to be a bit line or a source line.

In the claimed invention the lines that run vertical between the memory cells are fixed as bit lines "BL" and on the opposite side of a column of cells are fixed as source lines "SL" even though the orientation of the memory cells of a column is a

mirror image of the memory cells in the adjacent columns. Thus the portion of the channel under the stacked gate is coupled to a bit line (BL) in one column and the portion of the channel under the stacked gate is coupled to a source line "SL" in an adjacent column. In a similar manner, the portion of the channel under the select and control gate of an adjacent column of cell is coupled to a source line "SL", and the portion of the channel under the stacked gate of the adjacent column of cells is coupled to a bit line "BL". This claimed configuration is different than Kuroda et al. and Kuroda et al does not anticipate the claimed invention. In the claimed invention bit lines "BL" and source lines "SL" are fixed regardless of the orientation of the individual cells. In Kuroda et al. data lines "D" are switched to perform a bit line function or a source line function depending which cell is being programmed or erased.

In the specification, the paragraphs [0021] and [0045] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. The new paragraph [0075.1] added after paragraph [0075] discusses in general terms the features taken from Example 4.


All Claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance.

Allowance of all Claims is Requested.

AP 99-005BB

It is requested that should Examiner Mai not find that the Claims are now allowable, that he call the undersigned at (845) 452-5863 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectively submitted,



Stephen B. Ackerman,

Reg. No. 37,761

Attachments